

## DuPuis Management Area Hiking

Gate 2, which is about one mile west of Gate 1, is the entrance to the hiking trail. The Florida Trail Association, in cooperation with the water management district, has developed a network of 22 miles of hiking trails. The trails are part of the Florida Trail system and are arranged to provide hikes of various lengths. There are four loop trails that range from 5 miles in length to nearly 16 miles, and a 7-mile extension from the last loop that connects to the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area hiking trail.

The Florida Trail Association provides all trail maintenance. Rectangular orange blazes on trees and posts mark the main hiking trail routes. Blue blazes mark side trails. Two blazes generally designate an abrupt change in direction. Carefully locate the next blaze before continuing. Remember to carry adequate water with you. A quiet hiker might see deer, wild turkey and bobcats.

If you would rather take a shorter hike and picnic, you may want to pack a sandwich and drink and take a 2-mile round trip walk from Gate 2 to the old "Governor's House." The house, which no longer is in use, is a small structure the previous owners used as a hunting camp. Today, there are several picnic tables under cover immediately next to the house and a charming old hand pump well that your children will enjoy (but don't drink the water – it isn't safe). The Governor's House is about one mile from the trailhead at Gate 2.

Three primitive campsites are located along the hiking trail. The first is located on the east side of loop two; the second is at the south end of loop four; and the third is at the south end of DuPuis into the Corbett Trail.